

=THE BANDWAGON=

The Official Publication of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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April 1943.

THE MIGHTY HAAG CIRCUS ---- Season 1912. By O. E. Duble, C.H.S.

Every billboard in Shreveport, La., thirty one years ago was ablaze with new elaborate paper heralding the coming of the Mighty Haag Shows -- "The 18th Transcontinental Tour". The 1912 season opened Thursday March 21st in the home city, where the name of Ernest Haag the Showman, was a household word. While the show was on rail 1909 to 1914 George Moyer was General Agent and he ranked as one of the best in his line. Later on he was for some years with the American Circus Corporation. Ernest Haag was sole owner and Manager; Frank McGuyre, Assistant Manager; Harley Hubbard, Treasurer; Jim Campbell in charge of the front door and advertising banners; Harry R. Rhodes in charge of ring stock. He joined out with the show in its early days as a wagon show, and remained continuously forty-four years, and is now resident of Marianna, Fla., Advertising Car No. 1 was in charge of Victor Stout. Arthur Hopper, now with Ringling-Barnum Circus, was also in the Advance Department. Wm. Kellog, legal adjuster; Jim Finnigan - Trainmaster; Henry Emgard and Blassingame were in charge of concessions. Napolian Reed, Head Chef and made it a point to see that the circus folks were well fed.

The rail equipment for this season consisted of 15 cars, made up as follows: 1 advance car, 4 sleepers, 3 stock and 7 flats. The programme was presented in two rings and 1 stage. The show carried three elephants, 9 camels and seven cages. All cars were of wooden construction, and stocks and flats were 60 feet long.

George Oram, was Manager of the Annex Department. A few of the attractions I recall are Chief DeBro and wife, Esquimaux midgets; Nellie King presented a clever musical act, and also played the steam calliope in parade; DelFeugo, the human salamander and fire eater; Doc Coates, a typical Texan in tail coat and western hat, made side-show openings and all announcements in big show. The musical feature was Prof. Nelson's rag time band and New Orleans Minstrels.

Frank Miller was Equestrian Director, and principal rider, and presented his own jockey act, also performed some well trained menage horses. The four DeBolien's troupe of acrobats; the well known Walleth Family, five people, in their excellent riding displays with beautiful horses. The Clown song was "Alexander's Rag Time Band" a popular tune of the day, followed immediately by the old time leaps over horses and elephants. The SiKitchie troupe of Japs in foot juggling and balancing; Agnes DeEspa and Bill Johnson aerial performers; Jimmy O'Neal hand balancer; Clara Miller, principal equestrienne; Birdie Martino, rolling globes, juggler, and slack wire performer; Holzer and Rexloh, iron-jaw and wire act; Mardello, contortionist and clown. Other clowns I recall were Roy Barrett, Gail Boyd, and McCammon. Henry and Irene Marshall and Mabel James, trapeze, rings and aerial butterfly displays; Birdie Woods on the slack wire; John Woods now with Cole Bros. Circus, performed some trained ponies and horses.

The circus entered Canada June 2 at Port Colborne, Ont., playing important towns and cities to the Northern limits of the Toronto and Northern Ontario Railway at South Porcupine. A 325 - mile run was made to reach this town from Burk's Falls. The circus was unloaded and on the lot Sunday noon. One dollar was the admission to the circus at South Porcupine, a remote part of Ontario. The first stop

Mighty Haag Show - season 1912
(continued)

in Quebec was at Valleyfield, July 4th, where show did immense business, and other towns in this province were played up to July 13th then into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Narrow gauge railroads were used at that time on Prince Edward Island, Canada; and on Sunday July 18th the circus train was left at Point Du Chene, N.S. and equipment and people with show transported by steamer across Northumberland strait, over two hour trip, to the first stand, Summerside, P.E.I., which was a Monday date. Ordinary cars of the railroad were all ready to receive the equipment on arrival there, and were used the full week. Charlottetown, the largest city, 16,000 population was a two day stand. Souris was the Saturday date. All moved back on same steamer Sunday to Point Du Chene, show train loaded and tour continued, through New Brunswick and Quebec, the last stand in Canada being at Farnham, Quebec. In all sixty-six stands were made in Canada to satisfactory business. The circus was at Jamestown, N.Y., Labor Day where the show enjoyed big business.

An incident worthy of mention occurred on the night of June 3rd at St. Catharines, Ont., It was unfortunate to say the least. As the railroad crew were preparing to shift the loaded flats and stock cars to couple on to the sleepers an explosive of some kind was set off on top of the elephant car. The noise awakened all the show train and brought a crowd of townspeople in haste to the railroad yards. Rudy Gonzallas in charge of the elephants was on the scene at once and got them out of the car amidst their trumpeting. Their injuries were cuts about backs and heads from splintered wood and tin, were carefully looked after at once. In a week or so with the best of attention the injuries had healed.

Nine camels in the other half of the car were not injured in any way. The train was held up for two hours while officials of the railroad and police made every effort to find those responsible for the outrage but without results. Some people with the show were of the opinion that this happening was caused by a rival show in Canada at the time, however this could never be proven.

The old-style after show concert was presented with comedians, juggling, black face and dancing, concluding with Colorado Cotton, his wife and boy in "sports and pastimes of the western plains".

The Menagerie display was made up of three elephants, trainer Rudy Gonzallas, two of these were still with the Haag Circus twenty years later and were said to be among the largest with any show. There were also the nine camels, zebra, and seven carved and gold leaf cages of animals. Show also had a giant "Valk-Vark" (or African Wild Boar).

The big top consisted of a 120 foot with two 40 foot, and one, 50 foot middle pieces. Several tableaux wagons of ornate design were a parade feature and all baggage stock, sleek dapple grays. What circus fan would not like to wake up and find this circus waiting for him!

Dick Masters was Bandmaster of the Big Show band, and for some years later had the band with the Mugivan and Bowers Shows. The No. 1 Band Wagon of the Haag Circus was built originally for the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show in 1904, and was replete with fine heavy carvings. On one side was depicted Columbus discovering America; and on the other, Capt. John Smith and Pocahontas. The same wagon was with the 101 Ranch Wild West Show the last few years that it was on the road. At last reports it was at the old quarters, Marland, Okla; crumbling away. Picture the countless thousands thrilled on circus day seeing this wagon with its ten dapple grays leading the Mighty Haag Circus parades through the United States and Canada. Circus days that have gone --- but are not for-gotten.

An 8 page herald of attractive design was put out in advance of the appearance of the circus. Several of the parade wagons were pictured therein in exact reproduction. I doubt if one of these pieces of advertising could be found anywhere today.

Mighty Haag Circus - Season 1912.
(concluded).

The Mighty Haag Circus of those days is another show that can be added to the list of America's Representative Circuses, likewise the name of Ernest Haag, who was widely known and highly respected, shall always live in the annals of Circus History.

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Editor's Note: We are indeed indebted again to C.E. Duble, our Historian for another of his wonderful circus articles. This circus played Guelph, Ont., on June 11th 1912, and as a young fellow well remember my early trip to the runs in the early morning. The circus played on a lot only two blocks from my home, so you can realize that it was a real circus day for me. I attended the matinee performance, and many of the acts mentioned in this article are clear in my mind. The Wild Boar especially, was an animal looked forward to seeing. It is pictured on the herald of that season, and also on the herald as used in later years by the Haag Motor Show. I well remember the calliope concert given in the early evening, just before the opening of the night performance. It may be interesting at this time to note that the Haag Circus continued to travel by rail until November 1914, when the cars were sold to the Wortham Carnival.

W.W. Tyson. CHS 2.

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"THE AUCTION BLOCK"
- - - - -

Members are requested to send in early bids on the following items. Write your bids to the Secretary, J.B. Lyon, 22-A Charles Street, Guelph, Ont., Canada. Do not send any money at that time, you will be advised if you are the fortunate bidder. Remember - often a low bid will take the item. Many fine photos in this list below:

Lot No. 1:- Five 5x7" photos including a highly carved ticket wagon on unknown show but definitely an old timer; Fred. Bradna, fine studio post; Ella Bradna with horse and dogs; Bobbie Warriner on horse; two Clowns on Cole Show. Donated by Don Smith CHS 1.

Lot No. 2:- Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus - season 1937 - size 116. -15 photos lot, wagons, side show front, and Terrell Jacobs beside menagerie wagons. A splendid set. Donated by P.R. Hemphill CHS 32.

Lot No. 3:- Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus - herald 10x28" - season 1924. Illustrated with many old time circus cuts including performing animals, and Hippo family. Donated by Bob Parkinson. CHS 56

Lot No. 4:- Sells-Floto Circus photos - All parade scenes - Season 1924. 8 photos - size 4x6". A wonderful set for your collection. Donated by Chalmer Condon - CHS 52.

Lot No. 5:- Ringling Bros., & Barnum and Bailey circus photos. Season 1936, 7 photos. Size 4x6". Baggage wagons with wonderful hook-rope views. Something that all lovers of horses will appreciate. Donated by Frank Norton - CHS 35.

Lot No. 6:- Ten - 8x10" photos, including excellent study of Emmett Kelly, Ruddy Rudynoff Family; Mounted Menage riders; Art Lind and Bobo Barnett balancing dog on one finger; The lone Ranger, Nugie Gomez in Tom Mix Backyard, etc., etc., - A fine group. Donated by Don Smith, CHS 1.

NOTE: Closing date for bids - May first. SEND THEM IN EARLY!

CHECK LIST OF PRINCIPAL CIRCUS ARTICLES AND ASSOCIATED
SUBJECTS IN MAGAZINES (Year 1942)
(Continued From February Issue)
By: Burt L. Wilson, CHS.

This list is compiled by months. May - 1942 (continued)

Ringling Circus Sets Broadway Glitter - Spot - May 1942	3 pp pictures - Sarasota & New Elephant Ballet.
Buffalo Bill (Cody) Rotarian - May, 1942	reproduction of Painting by Robt. Lindneux
Heaven Was Waiting True Story - May 1942	No author listed Fiction - Novellette
Serviceable and Congenial New Yorker - May 9th 1942	Mark Murphy - Article on Fred. Smythe, - Side Show Manager R.-B.

JUNE

Castle in the Air Colliers - June 27th	J. Bryan Ill Article on Hubert Castle
Bandmaster of the Big Top Kiwanis Magazine - 1942	Don Clark Article on J.J. Richards - Former Bandmaster Ringling Bros.,
Zoo Barnum Sat. Eve. Post - June 6th	Otto Fuerbringer Article on St. Louis Zoo.
Canada's Tanya - Strongest Girl in North America Star Weekly, Toronto, Sunday Star, June 6th - 1p. pictures.	

July

Allez - Oop, Circus Music Goes Classical Etude - 1942	R. Heylbut Interview with Merle Evans R - B.
Clowning is Serious Business Christian Science Monitor - July 3rd.	N. White
Circus Wind Jammer Esquire - July	Howard W. Turtle Fine article on Merle Evans
Circus Vocabulary Writer's Monthly - July	Nat Green Article on Circus Slang
A Circus Charmer Nat. Police Gazette - July	P. Prowler 1/2 p. article on Chita Cristiani
Who's New in the Circus Cosmopolitan - July	Gerald Frank Pictures and short sketch of Emmett Kelly - Elly Ardely-Princess Vanessa-devascon- cellos.
Top Notchers - Hubert Castle & Wife - p 55 - Prize Winner Picture Pegasus - Dorothy Herbert	- p 53 - both in Mimicam Photo. July.

AUGUST

Coplan Catches Castle off the wire-Maxwell Coplan U.S. Camera - August 1942	1 p. pictures
Worst Circus Fire in years brings death to 36 animals Life - August 17th 1942	1 p. pictures. (Cleveland Fire)
Dr. Bernards Elephants and animals Life - August 17th	4 pages pictures and text
Home Town Show - Sat. Eve. Post - August 6th	Kenneth Forco, Jr., Article on Gainesville Community Circus.

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SEPTEMBER-1942

They do it for Meat
Esquire - Sept

F. Beverly Kelly & Don Lang
Long article on Alfred Court

Bobby's Hobby
Colliers - Sept 12th

Luther Davis & John Cleveland
Article on Bobby Clark of Clark &
McCullough

OCTOBER

Gay Carusoes of the Circus
Etude - October

F.P. Pitzer
Article on old-time singing Clowns

Castle's Crew Film Circus
Movie Makers - October

Donald Maggini
Filming Cole Show

Bane on Paris
Town & Country - October

Robert Goodman
Article on aerialist in Paris

Exit Tony
Time - October 19th

Death of Mix's Horse.

NOVEMBER

Fat Lady
Time - November 2nd

Article

Jumbo, King of the Big Top
True Comics, November

Pictorial History of Jumbo

With the Greatest of Ease
Parade - November 26th

1 page Pictures
Aladdin - Famous Rope Walking
Lion of Gay's Lion Farm in Calif.

DECEMBER

Peek

Big Top Memories - 2 pp pictures

Additions to 1942 list are as follows:

"Skin Game - Michel Angelos"
Colliers December 12th 1942

Tattooing Hannibal Coons

Bobby Clark - Just as Funny Without Specs
Spot - Jan 1942 - 3 pages Pictures, text, Comedian, Extrouper and Fan.

Flying Trapeze Man Joins the Army
Spot - Nov. 1942 - Vol. 1 No. 3. - 3 pp pictures and Text on Wm. Krause,
formerly with Concellos.

Parade - WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE -
Dec. 20th 1942

1/2 p. pictures and text - Con Coleman
leano

JINGLE, Jangle, Jingle in a Hotel
Pic Dec 22 1942 -

3 pp pictures and Text - Roy Rogers

I Married the Barnum of Broadway
Sensation - November 1942

Famous Press Agent - Lucinda Reich-
enbach

Along Clown Alley
Frances Beverly Kelley -
Sat. Eve. Post November 7th

Fine Illustrated article on R.B.B.B.
Clowns

Saxon - the iron Master
Strength and Health - August 1942 Saxon Trio - Strong Man.

S.&H. Goes to the Circus
Strength and Health - August 1942 Article on R.B.B.B. Gymnasts &
Picture.

This now concludes the list of Magazine articles as submitted by our
Member Burt L. Wilson. Be sure and make use of it, make notes from
it, and carry them in your pocket when you go and browse around your
favourite "second-hand book store". You will find many of the above
items there waiting for you.
The Editors

THE "AUCTION" of the FOREPAUGH & SELLS BROS. CIRCUS.

By Henry H. Conley, MD., - CHS.

On Tuesday January 12th 1905 a great array of circus owners gathered in Columbus, O., for the auction of the Forepaugh & Sells Bros. Circus. All of the properties, animals, name and good will were to be sold to the highest bidder. John Robinson, Otto Ringling, Jas. A. Bailey, "Solemn" Mike Welch, B.E. Wallace, Willie Sells, E. Haag, Walter Main, H.H. Tammen, Frank Lemon, Theo Hamlin and others were present. All had hopes of buying some part of the equipment to add to their own property. Promptly at 10 a.m. the hour set for the sale, Lewis Sells mounted the platform and said that he had received an offer of - \$150,000 for the show entire, that the good will and name went with the property, and that the bidding would start at that figure instead of selling the property piece-meal. Then Auctioneer Pugh took the stand. While the majority of the visitors were looking at each other in astonishment and hurriedly conferring, Pugh called for other bids. Of course none were made and he promptly knocked down the property for \$150,000 - "The purchaser is Jas. A. Bailey", shouted Lewis Sells, and the sale was over! Mr. Sells later explained that the offer from Bailey had come to him only that morning after the men had reached the Winter Quarters so Mr. Cole (Chilly Billy) and Mr. Sells agreed to sell the property entire.

This explanation did not satisfy the attending showmen, and the opinion was freely expressed that never again would a show be offered at public auction. Dr. W.T. Hornaday made a futile effort to secure one of the African elephants for the New York Zoo. Theo Hamlin wanted to buy 100 horses for the New York Hippodrome. However the greatest criticism came from the small show owners who had hoped to purchase small lots of animals or properties for their shows but were not allowed to buy one thing.

After the "auction" Otto Ringling left the winter quarters with Bailey and went into conference with him at the Chittenden Hotel. Then came the announcement by Bailey that he had sold half interest in the show to the Ringling Bros., the show to be operated jointly by the Bailey and the Ringlings. Again the small show owners squirmed, for this meant that instead of one show leaving the road, there would be three big shows working together. The territory mapped out had Ringling Bros., opening in Chicago and working east; Barnum and Bailey were to open in New York and work West; Forepaugh-Sells were to open in Columbus then go through the middle West and South.

Though this purchase made Jas. A. Bailey the biggest man in the circus world with his holdings in Barnum & Bailey, Buffalo Bill and Forepaugh-Sells, it was the first upward step of the Ringling Bros., for on July 1st 1906 they bought the Bailey interest in the 4/Paw Sells Show, then came the purchase of the Barnum & Bailey Circus, then the Circus Corporation of America was added - - - but all this is another long story and must wait for another snowy evening.

In correspondence with Dr. Conley, Frank Kindler CHS received the further information regarding the above "auction" which should be of interest to all CHS Members, and we print it as follows: - - - "After Forepaugh and Sells combined, they had a pretty good show but Ringling grew too strong for them while Barnum & Bailey was in Europe. With Barnum & Bailey back in this country, and Ringling getting stronger each year, the Forepaugh-Sells Combine decided to sell their show, title, animals, rolling stock and complete equipment at auction.

The Ringling-Bailey Combine put out the show in 1905 and 1906. Early in 1906, April 11th, I believe, Bailey died; and on July 1st 1906 the Ringlings bought the Bailey interest from his estate. In 1907 the show went out as usual from Columbus, but at the close of the season went to the Ringling quarters at Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Forepaugh-Sells did not go out in 1908 or 1909, but was sent out in 1910 playing New England and the Eastern States until September, then coming through the States of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

(continued on next page).

FOREPAUGH-SELLS AUCTION
(Concluded)

Closing in Mississippi on November 23rd. In 1911 they again played New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Ohio, back to Michigan in July, then through the Midwestern States until late in September, then a big swing through the Southeastern States, closing in Mississippi on November 11th. Both years the Winter quarters were in Baraboo, and the show was retired there"

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAIL BAG.

Word has been received that Leonard Quist, CHS 50 - is employed this season on the Ringling-Barnum Circus. We are glad to hear this, and would suggest that he act as our "Ambassador -at-large on the Big Show". Continue to send mail to his home address.

Since the enlarged Membership List was issued last month, the following three persons have joined CHS. Please add these to your List:-
No. 67 Mr. Richard Brandon, Turnabout Theatre, 716 No. La Cienega Blvd.,
pr. Bks. Los Angeles, Calif.

No. 68 Mr. Edwin Wendler, 2011 Sacramento St., San Francisco, Calif.,
Go, ph, Pr.

No. 69 Mr. Ernest O. Jensen, 3824 So. 12th, Tacoma, Washington,
GO.

We welcome these three members. Edwin Wendler played in Sells-Floto side show band about 1916, and Al. G. Barnes big show band about 1919, and advises that he has seen all the shows from Gentry to Ringling since 1908.

Ernest O. Jensen was Candy Butcher on Kit Carson Wild West Circus in 1912 and Al. G. Barnes season 1913.

Maurice Allaire CHS 57 is making a model of the Sparks 20-car Circus. Maurice is also making up a "Circus Museum" - comprised of models of famous circus wagons, side show freaks, etc. Most interesting!

Word has been received that two CHS members are now in the U.S. Services. Geo. Hubler is in the AAF, and Tom Parkinson in the U.S. Army. These two members ask that mail be continued to be sent to home address.

Attention of the members is called to the rubber stamp used on the back of the photo enclosed with this issue. This should help to direct visiting collectors' attention to CHS. All photos distributed with the Bandwagon in future will have this stamp on the back.

Thanks of the Members is due to Don Smith CHS 1 for this fine view of the Two Jesters Calliope shown on Hagenbeck-Wallace season 1934. This photo illustrates the feature article by Don Smith which appeared in the Special edition of the Bandwagon last month.

Wm. Koford CHS 47 suggested that members use a rubber stamp with the wording as follows "This photo from collection of Circus Historical Member No. Name. Date.". This is a good idea, and will identify a member's photos. A rubber stamp has been made up by the Editors, and an impression will gladly be sent to those who desire to have a rubber stamp made up locally.

Art Stensvad CHS 4 has sent us a very nicely gotten up printed pass for his "Campbell Bros., Great Consolidated Shows" (Miniature) for season 1943. Art has been ill for some months but is now on the way to recovery.

We also acknowledge a "Press Pass" from Bob Parkinson CHS 56 for his John Robbins 3-Ring Circus (Model). The editors note the handy work of Bill Green - Official CHS Printer - in both of these items.

<p>Join the SOCIETY FOR PERPETUATION OF CIRCUS STREET PARADES \$1.00 Concrete steps will be taken to make this as well as other fan ideals become a reality.</p> <p>Address: 1813 Evans Street, Omaha, Nebr.</p>	<p><u>CIRCUS HISTORY PICTURES</u> 8 x 10 glossy new prints of old time performer groups, railroad wrecks, parades, fires and bands \$1.00 each. Norris & Rowe, Sells & Downs, Miles Orton, other early titles. Send for latest list.</p> <p>A. Morton Smith, CHS 53 Box 160, Gainesville, Texas.</p>
<p>Enroute with U.S. Army:</p> <p>Pvt. TOM PARKINSON, CHS 31</p> <p>Permanent address for duration:</p> <p>336 N. Oak Crest</p> <p>DECATUR ILLINOIS.</p> <p>"Soldiers like mail call better than mess call..."</p> <p>Still trading pictures, etc., still buying all types of Circusiana</p>	<p>616 Kodacolor Film For Sale.</p> <p>Unused film \$1.00 per roll plus postage ----- I want to purchase</p> <p>OLD CIRCUS PHOTOS</p> <p>also pictures of full circus trains, including locomotive. ----- Arthur Stensvad, CHS 4 Box 634, North Platte, Nebr.,</p>
<p><u>FOR SALE</u></p> <p>Original Bromide Enlargement Original Ringling Bros. Troop for season 1883. 16 in x 19 in. - - -\$25.00</p>	<p><u>SPARKS CIRCUS PARADE PHOTOS.</u> First Canadian Tour - 1919.</p> <p>Three fine parade views - Size 116only. The set for 35¢ postpaid....</p> <p>Walter W. Tyson, CHS 2, 27 Green St.,Guelph, Ont., Canada.</p>
<p>Stetoscopic - Railroad contract - red seal, blue ribbon, 7 pages black paper with white type ----- Robbins Bros. Circus June 12th 1928-C.N.W. Railroad haul from Ida Grove Iowa to Morrison Ill. Price \$10.00 Frank Kindler, CHS 62, St. Cloud, Minn.</p>	<p>WANTED - Old Circus programs, route books and lithographs.</p> <p>"KEEP BUYING WAR BONDS AND STAMPS"</p> <p>Ted Meyer .. CHS 40, Box 175, Grand Island, Nebr.</p>

MEMBERS - - - - - NOTICE.

Unless the expiration date on your Membership Card shows a later date than May 1st 1943 ----YOUR CHS DUES are payable at that time.

We especially request that all dues be paid promptly to avoid unnecessary correspondence. We wish to continue the issuing of the Bandwagon and Historical sheets regularly.

This can only be done with YOUR CO-OPERATION!.....Thank you.

Send your dues to: Treasurer, Walter J. Pietschmann,.....
7337 Third St., Detroit, Mich.